

Testimony of Rick Melita
On Raised Bill 205
Before the Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 20, 2008

Good morning members of the Committee. My name is Rick Melita and I am the Political Director of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, which represents over 10,000 publicly funded employees in the state of Connecticut. We are also a member of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC).

SEBAC and CSEA/SEIU 2001 have both strongly supported privatization standards over the last decade, and also strongly supported concepts behind the clean contracting bill that was finally enacted last year in special session. One area of that public act that we felt could and should be modified was the implementation date of privatization standards, which currently go into effect in 2010.

We urged the legislature to move up the implementation date in last year's special session. And there was support for such change between the administration, the legislature and the state employees, but alas, the measure to move up the implementation date never was signed into law. The dates were included in other passed legislation that was ultimately vetoed for reasons other than the privatization standards.

We feel that RB 205 would be a technical change that would improve the Clean Contracting public act, and we would like to suggest moving up the implementation dates even further than the bill before your committee calls for. We suggest that the privatization standards in Section 16 of PA -07-1 be moved up even further: Section 2 of RB 205 should be moved to January 1, 2009 and Section 9 of RB 205 should be moved up to June 1 2009. Such changes can be done within existing appropriations.

If this public act is good public policy in 2010, there is no good reason to wait until then to implement it.